

## Tom's travels with a donkey have fund raising destination



EVER since he was knee high to a jackass, Mr. Tom Stephens has nurtured an ambition to travel from John O'Groats to Land's End by donkey and shay. Now the 66-year-old Cornish smallholder, and his little grey donkey Flicka are to make the trip — and at the same time raise money for spastics.

They will travel to John O'Groats in about a fortnight's time for the long haul back. It's expected that the return journey will take about six or seven

weeks, and Mr. Stephens hopes to arrive at Land's End during Spastics Week.

During his 900-mile "odyssey by ass" Mr. Stephens will collect money for local Groups of The Spastics Society. He is particularly keen to help the Cornish Spastics Society.

Rotary Clubs and Licensed Victuallers' Associations along Tom's route have been contacted to provide accommodation for Flicka and himself. "But I am prepared to live by my

wits," he said. "And I will sleep rough if necessary."

Flicka is in "A-1" condition, and more than capable of completing the journey. Just to make sure, an R.S.P.C.A. man was called in to inspect her and to give the 'go ahead.'

Tom, who is from St. Blazey, Par, Cornwall, and who is a member of a very well-known Cornish family, has always been a lover of horses and donkeys. Flicka is a family pet, and does not work for her living.

## Handicapped Peers tell of life in a wheelchair

BARONESS Masham of Ilton is pictured being helped into the House of Lords to make her maiden speech from her wheelchair in support of Mr. Alfred Morris's Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons' Bill.

During the debate, Lady Masham and three other disabled members of the House of Lords — Baroness D'Arcy de Knayth, Lord Ingleby and Lord Crawshaw—gave moving, first-hand accounts of what life is like in a wheelchair for the severely handicapped.

Lady Masham, paralysed from the waist down after a riding accident, and at 34, the youngest life peer, confessed that she was puzzled by conflicting attitudes to the disabled. She told of the railway steward who, asked to get her a cup of coffee, disappeared and did not return. And of the London taxi driver on the same day, who refused to accept her fare, insisting: "Have this one on me."

The Bill was given an unopposed second reading.

(Picture by courtesy of The Guardian).



## Contest for twisters!

HEREFORDSHIRE Spastics Society has an original competition lined up for Spastics Week, 1970.

The Group will sell pieces of wire mesh to members of the public and ask them to make something by cutting and bending and twisting it into shape.

A prize will be offered for the most imaginative creation.

# spastics NEWS

THE NEWSPAPER OF THE SPASTICS SOCIETY

May, 1970

New Series, Price 6d.

## Call for cash to ease family burden

A CALL for "Government re-thinking" and increased family allowances to be paid to mothers caring for severely handicapped children was made by Mr. James Loring, Director of The Spastics Society, when he spoke at the Society's East Regional Conference at Watford, Herts.

Mr. Loring said that looking after a handicapped child in the home could add £2 a week or more to the normal family outgoings and that "the recent budget does nothing to acknowledge or alleviate such anomalies and hardships." He cited the case of physically handicapped children with dragging feet where the extra cost of footwear alone could amount to a prohibitive sum yearly. Yet, he stressed, this was but one of many extra financial burdens borne by parents of the physically and mentally handicapped.

Mr. Loring also spoke of research commissioned by The Spastics Society which showed that many parents of handicapped children were at present getting a very poor deal from the country. For, although these men and women contributed to rates and taxes, like everyone else, they receive far less back from the community when their children did not attend school or a Day Centre and were unable to make use of local facilities.

"In effect," said Mr. Loring, "the community is taking all, but giving precious little back."

Continued on Page 2.

## Villagers raise funds for holiday treats

WHEN they heard that four spastic children from Slough, Buckinghamshire, would be spending a week's holiday in the area, villagers of Mount Hawke near Truro in Cornwall got together and organised a number of fund-raising events.

They collected £45 which was spent on trips to local beauty spots for the children and the four adults who accompanied them.

## "Having a lovely time—and the P.M. was here"

When Mr. Harold Wilson was in the Scilly Isles recently he met four pupils from the Thomas Delarue School who were also staying there.

Usually a party from Delarue goes to the Scilly Isles in the summer, but this year, because of a projected camping holiday in France and Switzerland, the Scilly trip took place in the spring.

The boys in the wheelchairs are, left to right: Richard Gamble (Head Boy), John Tyrrell, and Kenneth Smith. Robert Findlay is standing behind John Tyrrell.

Photo by Max Wright.





# The stars dress up, dance, collect and caper – in aid of spastics

IT was all happening outside the Record Star Show, held in aid of funds for the Stars Organisation for Spastics. Among the many supporters of the S.O.S. who gave their time and talents to entertain the crowds and collect from them as they streamed into the spectacular show: Quartet of collectors — "Nosh" Powell, Donald Houston,

Sylvia Syms, Steve Emerson. The bonny Bedouin is Derek Nimmo; the nimble buskers are Norman Vaughan, and Dickie Henderson, and the famous face under the odd hat belongs to David Kossoff, whose sad looks must have attracted extra cash into his collecting tin.

Pictures by courtesy of Tony Baynes.



## Technical library is memorial

A LIBRARY of technical books has been inaugurated by the Isle of Wight Spastics Society as a memorial to the late Mr. R. V. Wright who was honorary secretary from 1957 to 1969. The books will be kept at the Forest Side School, Newport, for the use of parents, students and anyone concerned with the care of spastics.

## Cash for families

Continued from page 1

ous little back. Nor can the poor do much to help themselves. They are dependent on the father's income only, as the mother is constantly tied to the child's side doing a magnificent unpaid job that would cost the State large sums if it had to take over care and responsibility. "That is why I ask the Government to think again and—even at this late date—recognise the very special financial problems of the many lower-paid families with handicapped children. Surely the nation cannot be so poor that it has to inflict deprivation on children already heavily penalised by handicap?"

## The bomb the army left behind

WHILE raking grass cuttings at the side of the drive at Thorngrove, The Spastics Society's Agricultural Work Centre, at Gillingham, Dorset, resident Mr. Daniel Snee, uncovered a live mortar bomb. The police were informed and a member of the Army Disposal Unit arrived to remove the bomb.

It is thought that the bomb had remained undiscovered for at least 25 years, and must have been left behind by the Army unit which occupied Thorngrove House during the war.

## Snippets from Spastics Week

ONE of the highlights of Spastics Week 1970 will be a round-Britain endurance drive by three spastics. Roger Holt, David Branch and Owen Parry are planning to cover the coast-line during the Week and establish an endurance record on behalf of the Association of '62 Clubs.

The intrepid threesome intend to take it in turns to drive, navigate and sleep, and apart from strictly limited halts will complete the route non-stop. Help and advice is promised from the Ford Motor Company and the Royal Automobile Club.

\* \* \*

DOOR Knocks are the means of fund-raising most favoured in the North East for Spastics Week. Past successes have shown that considerable sums of money can be collected by Groups who can obtain full support from schools, youth clubs and other organisations in their area. Leeds have set themselves an ambitious Door Knock target of £3,000.

A GIGANTIC "It's a Knock-Out" afternoon on Sunday July 5th is the main Spastics Week effort in Darlington. Chairman John Eason plans to spend the next few weeks devising competitions, and finding out where he can obtain sideshows.

\* \* \*

THE Week in London will be launched by a Church Service at St. Martin in the Fields on Sunday July 5 and will include the launching of a new Society film at the National Film Theatre on July 7, and Flag Days on July 10 (in City) and Saturday July 11.

\* \* \*

TEES-SIDE won the trophy for Spastics Week 1969, by the effort put into their highly successful Week. They will not loosen their grip lightly this year and any Group mounting a challenge will have to go all out—both in the publicity and fund-raising stakes.

## Just three of the many reasons for selecting Carters equipment

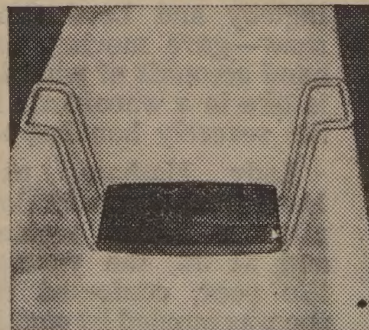


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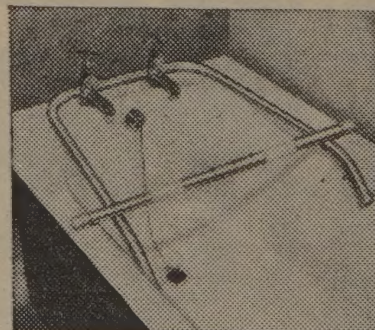
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# Clever ways to spread the Local Group "message"

A VITAL part of the Society's work for spastics is carried out by the local Groups. Officials on the spot are in a good position to keep in touch with what is going on locally and they can take rapid action when anything important occurs.

For instance, the letter which I mentioned recently from the mother of a lonely young spastic woman, was quickly taken up by the Chairman of the appropriate Group—in this case, Tees-side. The same newspaper published a reply to the mother's letter a fortnight later in which the Chairman outlined for the benefit of uninformed readers, the many occupational and social facilities available for local spastics.

However, not everybody reads a local newspaper and the most go-ahead Group can find that its activities are not always known to the people it is trying to help.

## Image

Groups have tried many different ways of overcoming this problem and publicising their work. Southport, Formby and District Spastics Society has recently mounted an exhibition which aimed, to quote a Group spokesman, at "Painting a correct image of spastics for the public, many of whom are still misinformed about the disability."

Items of work on show included jewellery, basketware and toys, all made by spastic homeworkers in the North West. There was also a spastic operated printing press and a stand manned by five young men from the Society's Industrial Training Centre. They demonstrated equipment used at the Centre in the manufacture of tubular steel frames for chairs and stools.



These attractively-dressed helpers at the Preston Group's International Fair were—left to right—Christine Newsham, Tara Patel, Anne Derbyshire, Mrs. Redfearn and Mrs. Joyce Carter. (Photo by courtesy of Lancashire Evening Post)

Another Group in the same county, the Manchester and District Spastics Society, invited the public to join in the 10th birthday celebrations of its Rodney House nursery clinic, by visiting a "Mother's Day Fayre" at the Centre.

mon one and they want to help," he said. This seems an excellent example of how newcomers can be drawn into supporting a good cause.

## Not so lucky

Other Groups have been less lucky in finding voluntary helpers. A recent meeting and film show held by Stamford and District Spastics Society to attract new members was very poorly attended, while the Grantham Group too, has had difficulty in getting enough people to assist with fund raising and welfare work.

In Rochdale, however, the Ladies' Committee of the local Spastics Society has been able to collect for a nearby Cheshire Home in addition to its Group Work. In two years the members raised £220 to buy two reclining wheelchairs which were recently handed over to residents of the home by comedian Jimmy Clitheroe.

## Partnership

In Sussex, this two-way partnership of local voluntary organisations operated in the opposite direction, when the Worthing Littlehampton and District Spastics Society received a cheque for £850 from the Bonhomie Society. The money will be put towards the cost of a new bathroom extension at the Fitzalan Howard spastic child-

ren's Day Centre in Worthing.

Incidentally, Councillor F. J. Chapman, the Chairman of this Group is at present Mayor of Worthing, and Councillor P. H. Thomas, the Mayor-elect is also interested in spastics.

The next Mayor of Caernarvon too, Councillor R. T. Cemlyn Williams, is Chairman of the Caernarvon and District Spastics Society.

A Mayor with a keen interest in spastics seems to be an excellent thing as, during his year of office, he is bound to meet many important local people and has unique opportunities to give the cause of spastics an important place in local affairs.

## KALEIDOSCOPE by Anne Plummer

The Chesterfield and District Spastics Society attracted local interest with its annual dinner and dance, this year attended by 100 people, and the Preston and District Spastics Group held a two-day International Fair.

## International

Exotic continental food was served at the fair and the stalls were decorated to represent many different countries. Guests were entertained by Polish and Indian dancers and a West Indian musical group. The event raised £350 for the Preston Day Centre, which has five children from other countries among those who attend daily.

Opening the first day of the fair, Mr. Sayeed Ahamed, Preston's Community Relations officer, said he was encouraged by the response of the town's immigrant population to the plight of spastic children. "The immigrants are realising that the problem of spasticity is a com-

## A gift – with love and affection – for Mrs. Welch

Mrs. Leonora Welch of Southampton has been presented with a gift of premium bonds in recognition of many years' service to spastics. The presentation was made by Dr. Horace King, Speaker of the House of Commons and M.P. for the Itchen Division of Southampton, at the Day Centre run by the Southampton and District Spastics Association. Mrs. Welch was Supervisor of the Day Centre before her retirement last year.

Making the presentation, Dr. King said, "This gift comes with the love and affection of all the people associated with Southampton spastics."

In her reply, Mrs. Welch recalled the early days of the Association when she started a Play Therapy Centre for six children in a borrowed dancing studio.

She said: "Tonight I salute

all those early pioneers and my heart overflows with gratitude towards all those who have helped this worthwhile work forward.

"Now the torch is passed on to all of you to keep it burning brightly; work with all your might for the sake of the children. There is still much to be accomplished . . ."

## JOAN GETS HER RECORD REQUEST

## – AS A FREE GIFT



JOAN Alderson, a 24-year-old spastic of Stenier Street, Accrington, has to thank her local paper for a record which is giving her a great deal of pleasure.

It happened like this: Joan and fellow members of the INSKIP League, Accrington, enjoyed an organ concert by Dr. S. Devlin, and because music is a very special joy to Joan she decided to say "thank you" in a novel way.

She sent a record request to Peter Murray's programme "Open House", and was lucky—she heard the music of her favourite organist Lenny Dee as she lay in bed.

The record played was "In the Mood", Joan's personal "Top of the Pops", a disc which Joan has tried to obtain for some time.

Joan decided to write to the Action Desk feature run by the "Lancashire Evening Telegraph" and ask for help.

She said: "My mother has tried to get the record in Accrington and Blackburn without any success. I already have three of his records but no one seems to be able to get hold of this particular one."

Action Desk contacted Reidy's Home of Music, Blackburn, and asked for help. The shop agreed that the record was not easy to get but promised to do everything possible to find a copy for Joan.

They succeeded, and Marie Reidy, a partner in the company, sent the record to Joan—free of charge.

Picture of Joan by courtesy of "Lancashire Evening Telegraph," Blackburn.

## THE MYSTERY OF THE LITTLE RED TABS

PEOPLE wishing to help spastics in Barnsley, Yorkshire, have been busy saving the little red tabs from cigarette packets, but all in vain.

It seems the word had got round that the spastics' organisations could exchange bundles of these tabs for cash. But neither The Spastics Society nor the cigarette companies can trace the offer.

In a statement to local people who had been collecting the tabs, Mr. L. Hollings, of the Barnsley and District Spastics Association, said that he much appreciated the kind gesture, but that nobody had any knowledge of the offer.

## ANCIENT AND MODERN



THE 17th Century tithe barn at The Spastics Society's Jacques Hall adult residential Centre in Essex has had a £12,000 face lift. It has been converted from a derelict out-house into a spacious modern workshop for the 18 residents.

As well as weaving, leatherwork and other handicrafts, sub-contract work for local firms is carried out. The residents are paid a weekly wage out of profits from the sale of goods.

Production has improved steadily since the workshop moved into the barn from cramped quarters in the main building at Jacques Hall.

Picture shows an instructress teaching basketwork in the newly-converted barn.

(Picture by courtesy of East Anglian Daily Times).

## Now children can stay at Tanfield

A NEW extension, costing £15,623 was recently completed at the Tanfield Junior Training Centre, Hindley, Wigan, Lancashire. It includes overnight accommodation for eight children.

The Wigan and District Spastics Society provided £10,000 for the building and furnishing of the Unit, so that multiply-handicapped children in the

area can stay for short periods to give their parents a much needed break.

Planning for the new extension was carried out jointly by the Lancashire County Council and The Spastics Society.

The overnight-stay unit was officially opened by Mr. James Loring, Director of The Spastics Society, whose speech was reported in last month's "Spastics News."



## The Regional Conferences

# Groups gather to discuss vital issues

THE education of spastics was the theme of The Spastics Society's East Regional Conference (also reported on Page 1) at Watford, Hertfordshire. Three speakers gave their views on different aspects of education.

Miss P. R. Brooks, Headmistress of the Birchfield Centre for Cerebral Palsied Children at Slough, spoke on educating spastics at a day centre. Miss E. M. Varty, Headmistress of The Spastics Society's School, Ingfield Manor, spoke on the lives of children at a residential school. And Mr. James Loring, Director of The Spastics Society, gave a talk on educating the mentally handicapped child.

Chairman of the Conference was Lady Rachel Bowes-Lyon, President of the Hertfordshire Spastics Society. After the Conference delegates visited the Watford Spastics Treatment Centre.

The Spastics Society's East Region includes the counties of Berkshire, Oxfordshire, Buckinghamshire, Northamptonshire, Hertfordshire, Essex, Bedfordshire, Huntingdonshire, Cambridgeshire, Norfolk and Suffolk.

THE problems faced by spastics in finding employment was one of the subjects discussed at the WEST REGIONAL CONFERENCE, held at Bristol. A talk entitled "Employment for Spastics" was given by Mr. J. L. Harries, Group Disablement Resettlement Officer at Cheltenham.

Another subject for discussion was the care of the mentally handicapped. Mr. Loring spoke on "The care of the Mentally Handicapped Adolescent and Adult."

During the Conference—which was chaired by Lord Champion—delegates broke up into discussion groups to talk over the points raised by the main speakers.

Products made at Work Centres for spastics in the West Region were displayed, and pot plants grown at the Society's Agricultural Centre "Thorn Grove", near Gillingham, Dorset, were on sale. There was also an exhibition of aids and appliances for the handicapped.

The Spastics Society's West Region includes the counties of Devon, Cornwall, Somerset, Wiltshire, Gloucestershire, Herefordshire, Monmouthshire, Radnorshire, Brecknock, Glamorgan, Cardiganshire, Carmarthenshire and Pembrokeshire; part of Dorset is also included.

SUBNORMALITY in the spastic child was the theme of the MIDLANDS REGIONAL CONFERENCE at Burton-on-Trent.

Three speakers talked on different aspects of the theme. Dr. G. B. Simon, Medical Director at Lea Castle Hospital, spoke on "How the Hospital Authorities can Help." Mr. D. A. Purrett, Chief Mental Health Officer for the City of Oxford spoke on "How the Local Authorities can Help." And Mr. Loring told "How the Society can Help."

The Mayor of Burton-on-Trent, Alderman H. Caulton, J.P., gave an address of welcome, and the conference was chaired by Lord Crawshaw.

The Midlands Region of the Society extends from the Welsh border to the Humber and from Derbyshire to Warwickshire. There are 27 Local Groups affiliated to the Society within the Region and all of them were represented at the Conference. Medical Officers of

Health, education experts and Local Government representatives also attended.

THE value to the community of co-operation between local authorities and voluntary organisations was the theme of the NORTH-WEST REGIONAL CONFERENCE at Manchester.

Three speakers projected different aspects of this theme. Mr. C. A. Hilditch, Chief Welfare Officer, City of Manchester, spoke on "Statutory and Voluntary Organisations—Their Suggested Future Role." Dr. R. M. Forrester, Consultant Paediatrician, and Chairman of The Wigan and District Spastics Society (who raise funds mainly to hand the money over to Lancashire County Council for mutually approved projects), followed up with an account of "Co-operation—One Group's Approach." Finally, Mrs. Ann Purser, Slough and District Spastics Welfare Society, and the parent of a handicapped child, put forward the plea "We hope for co-existence."

Mr. A. M. Frank, Assistant Director, Regions, of The Spastics Society, gave an address of welcome. The Conference was chaired by Mrs. P. M. Whatmore, newly-elected Chairman of The Cumberland, Westmorland and Furness Spastics Society.

## Trio's charming task



JUDGING entries in the Spastic League Club's fourth Charm Girl competition proved an enjoyable task for Radio and T.V. personality Don Moss (centre), ably assisted by (left) Ron Goodwin, composer, arranger and conductor, and (right) Bruce Wyndham,

BBC disc jockey announcer.

The finalists on this occasion were from the North West of England.

Ten Ford Escort de luxe saloon cars, ten colour television sets and 1,000 £5 prizes are offered every month to members of the

Spastic League Club who place in order of merit six photographs of attractive girls from ten published in the Club's weekly bulletin. The photographs are submitted by members and a different region is selected each month. Entry in the competition is free.

## NEW CENTRE A FINE EXAMPLE OF CO-OPERATION

One of the finest examples of co-operation between a local authority and a voluntary body. That was how the Lord Lieutenant of Hampshire, Lord Ashburton, described the establishment of the Audley's Close Work Centre for the disabled, at Basingstoke, Hampshire.

Lord Ashburton officially handed the Centre over to the Hampshire County Council, on behalf of The Spastics Society. The Society built the Centre with the help of three of its affiliated Local Groups.

The three Groups, Winchester and District Spastics Society, Basingstoke and District Spastics Society and Andover and District Spastics Society, raised more than

£20,000 towards the new Centre.

"When I was first approached by the three Groups to be President of their appeal," said Lord Ashburton, "I had slight misgivings about their £20,000 target. I must have underestimated the appeal committee. For I have with me a cheque which brings the amount they have raised close to the target figure."

"There is still more money to come in, and this will bring

the total figure raised up to £21,900. All this has been raised with only £131 being used for expenses. I have never known an appeal which has had such a tiny percentage of expenses."

He said The Spastics Society had contributed the balance of the £36,000 required to build the Work Centre. The Society also planned to build a hostel for 25 severely handicapped spastics in Basingstoke. Residents from this hostel would work at the Centre.

Lord Ashburton then handed the key of the Work Centre over to Brigadier Sir Richard Calthorpe, Chairman of Hampshire County Council, on behalf of The Spastics Society.

Sir Richard said that the new Centre represented real progress in terms of social services. The Spastics Society and

the three Local Groups had done a tremendous job in providing the Centre.

Welcoming guests, Mr. James Loring, Director of The Spastics Society said that one of the characteristics of an affluent society was that, as it progressed, it left a number of problems in its wake. Problems which seemed insoluble with the country's present resources.

"Voluntary efforts are making a great contribution towards helping these groups," he said. "At one time it was thought that the welfare state would see the end of voluntary work. In fact the reverse has taken place, and voluntary societies are playing an increasing role in helping the less fortunate members of society."

## We asked ourselves the question: What are we doing and why?

BY A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

WHEN one enters an Oxford College for a Spastics Society Seminar one leaves the practical problems of the outside world behind and moves, for a short period, into a world where ideas are paramount.

Those attending the Society's Seminars put aside rank and position and have to fight for their ideas, and often defend them, from attacks by their subordinates or the unacademic.

### Can they help?

One is sometimes asked why the Society organises events of this sort; in what way can mere discussion of ideas help the handicapped and particularly this year, when the subject was Moral Education and Social Adaptation of the Handicapped Child? In what ways would the outcome of such a Conference be of practical help, particularly as quite a number of the speakers knew very little about the disabled, and indeed, some of them were speaking from a purely theoretical point of view? Might it not be that those of us who

represented the Society might not be better employed rattling collecting boxes in the High or at least doing something very practical to help spastics?

But as the Seminar progressed, it became increasingly evident that not only were the concepts of moral education very important to those of us who try to help the handicapped but indeed, their discussion brought us down to rock bottom and caused us to ask not only what we were doing, but why we were doing it? We were quickly back in the very difficult field of objectives and motivation.

### Ways and means

The Seminar was organised in conjunction with the Farmington Trust which has a grant from a private foundation to try to work out ways and means by which morals and social objectives can be taught to children so that these will remain foremost in their minds when they move into the adult world.

We started off with a very

swift and sharp address by John Wilson, Director of the Farmington Trust, who is a philosopher. As one member of the Seminar remarked, "he spoke at the pace of a rattlesnake," and some of his stabs at the status quo and at our assumptions were equally swift and sharp!

### It is necessary?

Our second day was, I suppose something of a failure in the sense that we were trying early on to marry handicap to the problems of this wide subject. The big guns of the Trust were brought into play and gave us pretty clear accounts of the work they were doing. The Spastics Society's Director, Mr. James Loring, gave a paper on the application of moral education to the problems of handicap, but we ended up in some confusion after a sharp attack from Mr. Asher Cashdan of the University of Manchester, who put to us the question: "Is moral education really necessary?"

Day Three brought in really heavy artillery with two bril-

liant papers: Professor Russell Davis, a psychiatrist, spoke about what prevents, moral learning, and Professor Brian Foss, a psychologist, who talked about behaviourism and the formation of moral concepts.

We were brought down to earth quite sharply by the film "Three for Society". This was made to enable handicapped young people to talk about their problems in an adult environment, and provided just the right soil in which to plant the somewhat theoretical papers which we had already had.

### Problems

The subjects for the remaining days were practical. One by the Society's psychiatrist Dr. Donald Gough, was about parents and children; another by Dr. Martin Bax concerned the ethical problems of the medical practitioner; and the day was completed by Miss Elsie Seller, a houseparent, talking about problems of guidance with the handicapped teenager. At this stage, the Seminar gathered momentum,

or to put it in another way, began to make sense.

On the last day, a number of important papers were given. Those by Mr. Peter McPhail on living well, and by Mr. Graham Burn, who, speaking as a handicapped person, both brought the sharp light of realisation to much of what we had been discussing.

### The challenge

The Seminar subjects were challenging and thought-provoking. All of us took away a wealth of new ideas and concepts, and felt that the Seminar Co-ordinator, Miss Anita Hunt, Research Associate, Farmington Trust, had provided us with a programme of immense variety and mental vitality.

The lighter side of life was not entirely neglected, and the Seminar dinner provided us with a fund of wit. Mr. A. W. Burn, Chairman of the Society spoke with wisdom and perception about the way in which our deliberations should be applied, but, in addition, he appeared to have a bottomless barrel of memorable jokes which gave the dinner a welcome atmosphere of lightness and humour after our week of deep probing of the moral dilemma.





## "I'll help Society for 50 years" promise

MANY of us live financially from day to day. Others live from week to week. Still others work on an annual basis which is a very sedate dignified way of living.

Mr. John Kellett, The Spastics Society's Assistant Director (Appeals), must think in longer periods of time in his search for Deeds of Covenant of seven years or more.

Recently the "or more" jumped into prominence so unexpectedly that Appeals staff members were shaken, but pleasantly so. A Deed of Covenant was received made out for 50 years.

This combination of bravery, optimism and sympathy for the handicapped must be unique in charitable giving, for although everyone wishes to do all that is possible, few can visualise the time, far ahead when the 50th cheque is signed and the Deed completed.

## Aids and Appliances



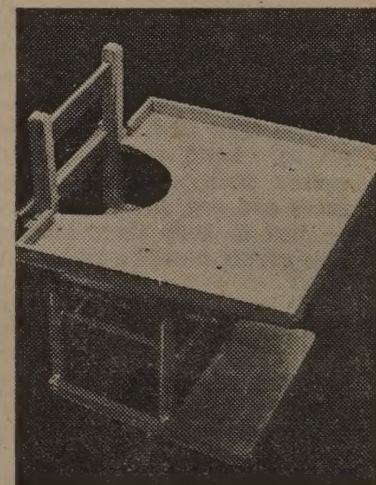
Photograph 1: The Amesbury Avon chair is the recent addition to the exhibition on Aids and Appliances at the Family Service and Assessment Centre, Fitzroy Square, London. This model combines the ability to tilt the chair backwards, as with the Amesbury Opal, with some very welcome new features.

The chair itself can be lifted off the outdoor wheels and secured to an indoor frame (shown here in picture 2) in a

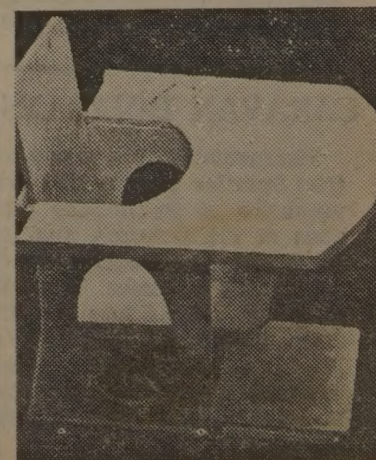


matter of minutes. The seat itself can be folded up to form a compact package for transport. The indoor castor frame, which folds separately, is not supplied by the D.H.S.S. on prescription and costs an extra £10.

This chair is made in two sizes, the 12in. at £40 and the 14in. at £43. Hood, apron and tray can be supplied at an extra cost.



Photographs 3 and 4: Here is a made-to-measure chair/table combination which for approximately £4 can be made up to suit individual spastics. These two chairs are both on display at the Fitzroy Square exhibition and orders for these chairs should be sent to Mrs. Till who, in conjunction with Miss Richardson, the Occupational Therapist at the Family Services Centre, can deal with their supply on a medical recommendation.



## Something to smile about

DELIGHTED prizewinner Mrs. Anne Miles, of South Woodham Ferrers, Essex, holds high the cheque for £504 which she won on the Spastics Pool. The presentation was made by the warden, Mr. Raymond Smith, at Drummonds, The Spastics Society's Adult Residential Centre at Feering, Nr. Colchester. Pictured at the ceremony are, back row,

Mr. Alec Richmond, Mr. M. Patterson, Margaret McConochie, Mr. H. Corker, Mr. and Mrs. Miles and their baby daughter, Mr. Raymond Smith, Mr. M. Hay, Mrs. M. Creek, and Miss G. Smith. Residents of Drummonds seated in the front row are Joan Chandler, Adele Strong and John Pratt.

Picture by courtesy of the Essex Chronicle.

## WHY NOT WRITE TO CAROL AND BRYAN?

TWO requests for pen pals arrived at the 'Spastics News' office last week. Can readers help to meet them?

Miss Carol Ann Tursi, of Apartment ET-2, Trevoze Square Apartments, Street Road, Trevoze, Pennsylvania 19047, Pennsylvania, U.S.A., is a 27-year-old spastic who works as an assistant librarian in a school for emotionally disturbed children. She is also active in the United Cerebral Palsy Association of Philadelphia.

Carol would like to hear from men or women in the late 20's,

but says she would also welcome letters from younger adults "because as I was growing up I encountered some of their difficulties and can suggest ways to accept the hardships of acceptance."

As many pen pals as possible will be welcomed by Carol and she says she would like to hear from non-handicapped people as well as other spastics.

The second request came from Bryan Munday, aged 17, of 14 Nursery Lane, Ascot, Berkshire. Ideally, he would like to hear from a girl of similar age who lives abroad.

## BETWEEN THE LINES

By Derek Lancaster-Gaye



OUR ability to communicate with our fellow souls is one of those things we tend to take for granted. So long as we can read and write, study the occasional strip cartoon and maintain half an eye on the colour supplements, then two-way communication between us and them is bound to happen. And then we are surprised when we find out that it doesn't.

Communication is something about which The Spastics Society has become increasingly concerned. A lack of knowledge of the facts about handicap, a lack of understanding about the problems of those faced with it in one form or another, and a lack of action all seem to have their roots in a failure of communication — especially amongst those professionally involved with the problems. Of course, in some measure this is due to the fact that as specialisation increases so do the problems of communication and most of us probably feel that we do not have the time to go through the motions of reading and writing.

It is encouraging, therefore, that the Society has begun to play an increasingly active role in national and international exhibitions in this country. In April the Society was found at the exhibition of health accompanying the Eastbourne conference of the Royal Society of Health, a gathering of public health doctors and officers. And what better opportunity for the Society to pose some of the problems of communication?

GREATER community responsibility for its mentally handicapped fellows has become manifest during the past year in the increasing acceptance of the principle that

a large proportion (put variously at 30 to 50 per cent) of patients in sub-normality hospitals could and should be returned to some form of community care. Future hospital development and many local authority programmes are now based on this presumption. And the struggle and the argument would seem to have been worth while.

The implementation of these principles does seem to be as remote as ever, however, and the prospect for the immediate future can scarcely be described as rosy. It is, of course, all a matter of finance. As the discussions about the future shape and form of the "new NHS" continue, one major factor tends to dominate these discussions. That is the question of control of the service.

The process of unification of responsibility was started by the establishment of the new Department of Health and Social Security and the Minister has, on numerous occasions, made it clear that the move to central control will continue. It is, however, a surprising anomaly that at such a time when central direction of health and social services is proposed we should be considering two quite dissimilar administrative structures to manage the "unified" health and social services at a local level.

Surprise gives way to anxiety when one realises that in doing this we are perpetuating the situation where one side of the service is financed by central taxation and the other by the ratepayers. Inevitably this must mean that hospital, specialist, and general medical services will continue to expand with the gloss that only central financial control can provide, whereas local services will rely on the ratepayer and his moral priorities. In such a situation it is hard to see just how the establishment of more hostels will be justified especially where these are required to provide services for men and women at present "outside" the community.

Obviously a great deal more than goodwill is required if these principles, for which we have fought so hard and for so long, are to be realised in the lifetime of those for whom they are to be provided.

## Julie's swim starts £2,000 success

GRIMSBY Round Table, Lincolnshire, recently held a sponsored swim which raised about £2,000 for a proposed Day Care and Treatment Centre for physically handicapped chil-



dren in the area.

The swim was started by Julie Broderick, 12, who is herself handicapped. Julie is pictured, left, being helped into the pool by the Mayor and Mayoress of Grimsby, Alderman and Mrs. A. C. Parker. Julie swam four widths of the pool and was presented with a cheque for five guineas by Ald. Parker, who signed her sponsor form.

The new Centre will be built in the grounds of Scartho Road Hospital, Grimsby. It is the brainchild of the South Humberside Spastics Society. The capital building cost of £21,000 will be met by the Group and The Spastics Society.

### Running Costs

When completed, the building will be handed over to the Sheffield Hospital Board which will be responsible for staffing and annual running costs.

The Centre will provide treatment, education and rehabilitation for handicapped children up to the age of nine. It will aim to prepare the children for special education at secondary school level. The Local Education Authority will be invited to provide some of the facilities at the Centre.

The South Humberside Spastics Society also contributes a share to the running costs of the Lincolnshire Adult Spastics Centre at Scunthorpe.

(Picture by courtesy of Grimsby Evening Telegraph).





Above: A group of spastic riders demonstrate their equestrian ability during a horse show.

## When it comes to sport spastics have special talents

THE second annual National Spastics Games are almost upon us. Plans are on the drawing board for a European Spastics Games. And there is even talk of holding World Games for spastics. In other words sporting events are really catching on among spastics, who are proving themselves to be remarkably proficient in a number of recreational activities.

Their sporting achievements are by no means confined to athletics. Horse riding, canoeing, archery, ten pin bowling, basketball and wheelchair football are just a few of the pastimes in which spastics take part and enjoy.

"It's important to remember," said Mr. A. T. S. Edwards, Physical Education Adviser to The Spastics Society, "that just because a person happens to be physically handicapped it doesn't mean to say that his competitive spirit is impaired in any way. Far from it. Spastics are just as competitive as anyone else.

### MUST BE REAL

"That's why it's so important to provide them with activities which are as close as possible to those in which normal people take part. It's no good giving handicapped people events such as three legged races and egg and spoon races — just to keep them amused. The events must be real.

"Rules for the National Spastics games are based on Amateur Athletic Association rules, and are modified as little as possible. After all there's little difference between a sprint and

a wheelchair race. The same rules can apply. As a matter of interest a disabled man in a wheelchair can sometimes beat a non-handicapped runner.

"The important thing is to encourage spastics to get out and do something which they can enjoy. However the therapeutic advantages of sport are a very welcome additional benefit. Taking part in sporting events is also a great help in getting the handicapped to integrate with the non-handicapped.

### COMMON AIM

"I have found that if you gather non-handicapped people and handicapped people together in a hall for a social, they very quickly divide into two groups. They have no common interest. But if you take the same people out riding, or canoeing—they mix in no time. They merge into one group of riders, or canoeists—

Below: Throwing the javelin—an event in the first ever National Spastics Games held at Stoke Mandeville last year.



instead of one group of disabled people and another group of non-handicapped people. They at once have a common interest and a good basis for conversation.

"Of course there are some sports at which a handicap can be—indirectly at any rate—an advantage. A person who spends a great deal of time propelling himself round in a wheelchair very soon develops strong arm and shoulder muscles. And this is very useful for such things as archery, canoeing, and throwing events. In fact a spastic girl has become a club champion at the Tunbridge Wells Archery Club.

### WATER BABIES

"Swimming is another sport where strong arm and shoulder muscles count. This is a particularly good sport for the handicapped. In the water the weight is taken off their bodies, and this gives them a sense of freedom. When we stage swimming events they do not vary from the Amateur Swimming Association rules at all."

The Spastics Society is constantly pioneering new physical recreation activities for spastics. Wheelchair dancing is rapidly gaining in popularity, and there are plans to hold a "Come Dancing" style championship. For the very severely handicapped there will soon be an opportunity to take part in model motor racing, using Scalextric cars and tracks.

### IDEAL

Team events such as wheelchair basketball and wheelchair football are also becoming popular. Bowls is a very good sport for those confined to wheelchairs. Chairbound competitors would be able to take on the non-handicapped on their own terms in a game of bowls, providing that minor alterations were made to the bowling green.

## Contrasts of care for disabled in Japan

JAPAN — Land of the Rising Sun, land of a growing handicap, a land in which 50 per cent of a population of 100 million live in an area of some 17 per cent of the total space available, is undoubtedly a land full of surprises. A fact which is itself surprising in view of the very wide publicity that has been given to Japan in Expo '70 year.

It is, of course, a country of dramatic contrasts, contrasts between densely packed industrial estates and barren mountains, between the now ubiquitous miniskirt and the traditional kimono, between the concrete eruption that has become 1970 Tokyo, and the almost total lack of conventional sanitation in three-quarters of the nation's homes. Indeed, the meaningful comparisons that may be drawn are endless, and the contrasts quite clearly have at their roots the country's almost irrational anxiety to establish itself as one of the world's super powers, an anxiety which has taken little account of such domestic and human problems as those of handicap.

### Attitude

Ten days of fact finding in a land with as many distractions as Japan has to offer is scarcely long enough to do more than sense the perspective and the nature of the handicap problem especially at a time when the entire country is dressed in its Sunday best for World Exposition year. But even so, one cannot notice the quite remarkable contrasts that colour the whole of the Nippon attitude towards the handicapped members of their community.

Handicap in Japan is conspicuous — largely by its almost entire absence from the streets. One is tempted to suggest that this must be due to the almost impossible task of living in Tokyo and being handicapped at the same time.

### Still unseen

The capital's streets, buildings and transport were clearly not developed with the handicapped in mind. Indeed, one questions whether they were developed with anything in mind. But the symptom is evident in other less chaotic and more discreet cities such as Osaka, Kobe and Kyoto where the handicapped remain an unseen but undoubtedly very real presence.

The truth of the matter is, of course, that a very large proportion of the mentally handi-

capped are hospitalised at an early age and few facilities exist for their return to the community. It is less surprising that Japan, with its great emphasis on industry and full employment, is concerned about the employment of its handicapped workers and one must be impressed by the much more liberal and realistic attitude of the employers to this problem. Mild astonishment was expressed to me by one industrialist that in Britain only three per cent of the country's labour forces must be registered disabled persons. I suspect that we have much to learn in this field as a major industrial nation with far fewer of the domestic and housing problems found in Japan.

### Apathy

What is so difficult to reconcile is the almost total apathy about the handicapped in terms of housing and transport on the one hand, and the quite advanced approach to clinical and vocational assessment on the other.

There is, it seems, very little organised publicity for the handicapped and such services as exist are fragmentary and without coherent pattern or continuity. However, Expo year has produced some benefits. Every possible consideration has been given to the mobility and to the needs of handicapped people at the Expo site where no less than 200 wheelchairs, uncompromisingly of Japanese manufacture, are available in a special rest centre for handicapped visitors from overseas.

It is a little ironic that these practical and realistic considerations for the handicapped will be pulled down along with the rest of the Expo site once 'the greatest show on earth' comes to an end.

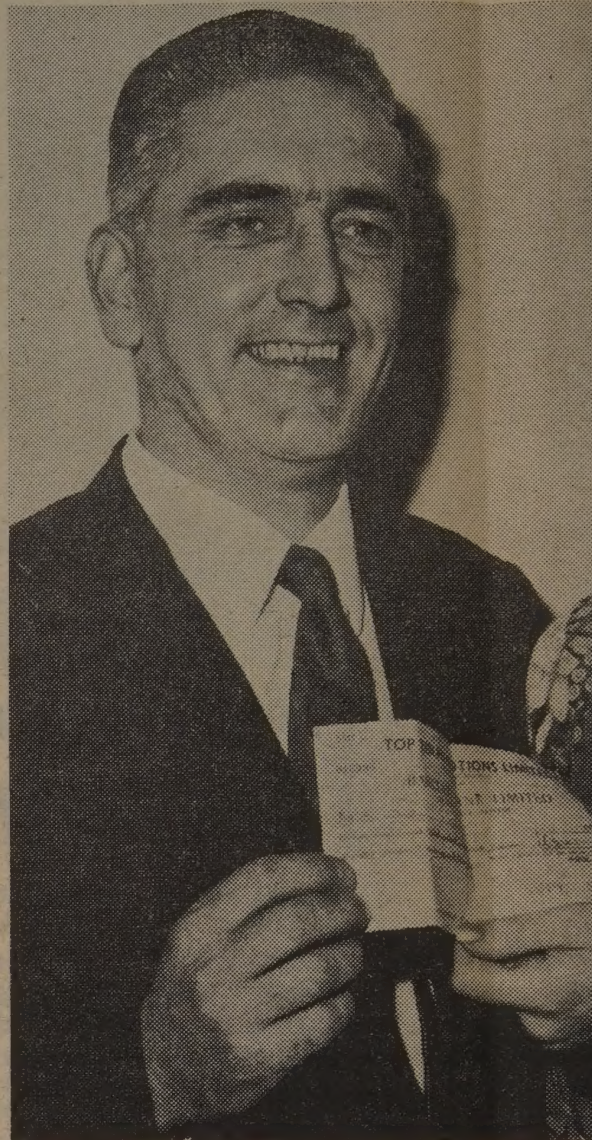
### Influence

But in common with all the other major nations of the world, Japan shares one characteristic. It has a small section of its population, of people who really care about the problems of the handicapped, and who strive to influence popular opinion about their community responsibility.

The earnestness and the sincerity of the Japanese, in spite of their political pre-occupations, is infectious, and whilst Japan is not perhaps the country of beauty and mystique that the travel guides would have us believe, it has an excitement and allure of its own which is difficult to resist. In my book, 10 days there is an experience not to be missed. Sayonara.

Derek Lancaster-Gaye

## Splashes



NO wonder Mr. Bruce Whyte of Dundee what more could a man ask for "Spastics," and receive the cheque from old Eva Ruber-Staier. The present Dundee was delayed due to the car travelling breaking down, but as Bruce's lady's privilege to be late, and who was a beautiful girl in the world!" Eva was by Joan Woodage, who attends the For the fashion conscious, Miss World thigh length blouse, black bell bottom length boots and black belt with

## Those hard working charmners

THOSE ten attractive young ladies who were seen at the Record Star Show at Wembley are getting around and about in their blue and white uniforms. They are the R.P.P. Charm Girls who appear at a number of charity events.

The young ladies are chosen annually at the dinner of Regional Pool Promotions in Bristol. During the year they are seen helping at all kinds of fund-raising occasions. Apart from being easy on the eye, they are hard workers for the cause.

Among events at which they were prominent last year were the National Spastics Games at Stoke Mandeville and the National Charity Queen and Princess Contest at Southport. They are already looking forward to this year's games, and to the Queen and Princess Finals which will be held at The Lyceum Ballroom, London, on Thursday, 25th June.

Lady Mac  
bouquet of  
Spence after  
Escort de  
Mr. R. P.

### CARAVAN HOLIDAYS

Bournemouth, Poole and District Spastics Society still have vacancies at its holiday caravans at Christchurch, the Isle of Wight and Rockley Sands. At Rockley Sands: May 30-June 13, July 4-July 25, and from September 5. Isle of Wight: to June 13 and from September. Christchurch: June 20-July 18, and from September 5.

## TRAGEDY OF CRUEL AND HURTFUL JOKES

A LETTER in the "West Lancashire Evening Gazette" in April made a plea for people to stop the acceptance of "those hurtful and malicious 'spastic jokes' which seem to be so popular nowadays."

The writer, Miss Jane Daly, of St. Annes, Blackpool, said

she found these jokes distasteful, and went on:

"To me it is the height of cruelty to pick on other peoples' tragic situation, and then to mock them. Each time I hear one I think of a friend of mine, confined to a wheelchair, who is intelligent and very much aware of the world

around her.

"The people who tell them have obviously never met any spastics, for they are the most lovable, considerate and affectionate people it is possible to meet. Crippled people are perfectly normal. It sounds obvious that so few people realise it. Spastics are not lunatics.

"At a time when people are trying to bridge the gap between black and white and we continually hear the phrase, 'Of course, I'm not prejudiced against negroes,' shouldn't we be getting rid of the terrible prejudice against spastics, and all other crippled people?"



# Prizewinning bonanza goes on for lucky members



...e of Dundee is smiling! After all, ask than to win £3,227 on the cheque from Miss World, 20 years presentation at the Playhouse, the car in which Miss World was at as Bruce Whyte said "It's a young and who wouldn't wait for the most Eva was presented with a bouquet nds the Dundee Spastics Centre. Miss World wore a flower patterned ell bottom velvet trousers, knee belt with golden emblems.



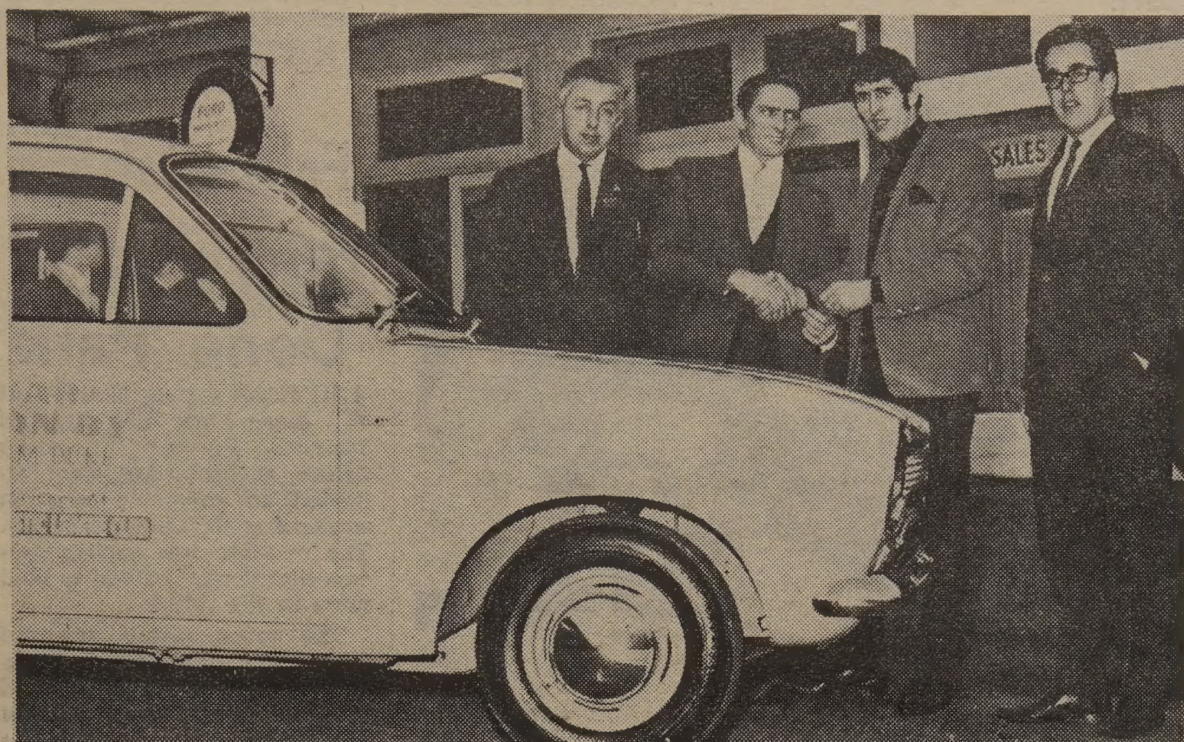
dy Macdonald of Sleat receiving a quet of flowers from young Linda nce after the presentation of a Ford ort de Luxe to "Spastics" member, R. P. Charter of Brandesburton, Driffield.

**C**CHEQUES, cars, gifts, premium bonds — the great "hand-out" for members of "The Spastics" all over the country continues. This month we have collected for you a selection

of pictures of happy winners.

Good news, too, has been coming in of members who have been winning prizes up to £1,000 with the premium bonds they have been getting through

our regular weekly issue. Perhaps luck attracts luck. You "win" a bond and it wins a prize for you. Anyway a large number of members have reason to believe this.



Yet another car winner in the Home Counties, Mr. M. Duke of Tadworth, Surrey, receiving the keys of his Ford Escort de Luxe from Chelsea and England goalkeeper, Peter Bonetti.



Stars Organisation for Spastics member, Vince Hill, presenting a Ford Escort de Luxe car to Mr. P. Moran of Keighley, Yorks., at the showrooms of Walter Burgess Ltd. Mr. Moran was one of 10 car winners in a recent "Spastics" Charm Girl Competition.



Lincolnshire members strike lucky on "Spastics" competitions. Mrs. E. G. Jessup and Mr. F. Cliffe of Lincoln were presented with cheques for £525 by Alderman Frank Eccleshare.



The worst spring snow storm for many years did not deter Mr. and Mrs. Mason of Ramsey Heights, Hunts., from reaching an hotel in St. Ives to receive their 1st prize in a Star Holiday competition for "Spastics" members. Heavyweight boxer Joe Bugner presented the couple with brochures of their prize which consists of a 21-day fly / cruise holiday in the Eastern Mediteranean.

**A** CALL for joint action by local authorities and voluntary organisations to introduce handicapped school leavers to leisure pursuits was made by Mr. Irwyn Walters, a former Senior Inspector of Schools for Music, when speaking to a conference on music and the physically handicapped at the Goldsmiths Hall, London.

The conference was discussing a report\* prepared by Mr. Walters for the Disabled Living Activities Group, based on a survey of the leisure needs of the disabled.

Mr. Walters said that the school leaver should serve as

## "Help the handicapped with leisure activities"

the rallying point for all the Welfare Services, such as the Health and Further Education Departments and the Youth Employment Office, which should co-operate to "welcome the school leaver as the school gates close behind him".

It was important to guide the handicapped school leaver into leisure activities and help him cultivate his interests. What was needed, said Mr. Walters,

was for society to ask the handicapped not what can we do for you, but what have you to offer society?

Miss B. J. Sutcliffe, Headmistress of the Dame Hannah Rodgers School, said that much good musical work was done in schools for the handicapped, but while much was done to help school leavers to find a job, there was a real void when it came to helping them with

leisure activities, with the result that much of the school's work was wasted. She suggested that Careers Officers should find time to give the handicapped school leaver information on musical classes, choral classes and other leisure activities. A large amount of time, said Miss Sutcliffe, should be spent in the child's last year in school in making contacts with organisations which would be

useful after he left. Several speakers emphasised that an involvement in music led to a much fuller life for handicapped people and for some it was their main source of social contact.

Others spoke of the need for local authorities to make sure that the disabled were made aware of local facilities such as adult education classes, the need for all public concert halls to provide special facilities for the handicapped, and the need for the handicapped to take part in leisure activities with the non-handicapped.

\* "Music and the Physically Handicapped," published by the Disabled Living Activities Group of the Central Council for the Disabled.



## Who's for hardy Bovver Boots?

THE words "Skinhead boots" fill most people with apprehension, but I know of one pair which has been much appreciated by all concerned. They are being worn by a law-abiding young gentleman in one of the Society's Adult Centres.

Although he is in a wheelchair he rips through shoes at a great rate because he paddles along with his feet. Also, he sometimes discards his chair — an impediment at best of times — and tackles jobs by pottering round the floor on hands and knees, which wrecks the shoe uppers. This sort of treatment usually finishes a pair of shoes in about three months.

For the past 2½ months as an experiment, he has been wearing a pair of lightweight industrial shoes with built-in steel toe caps. After almost constant wear they still look quite presentable. They are still "going-out" shoes and, by this stage, most of his footwear had degenerated into "work" shoes. This pair cost £3 2s 0d.

Industrial footwear does not always mean great clomping boots. The range includes quite smooth looking lace-up and pull-on shoes, all with the built-in steel toe caps. Men's sizes and half sizes 5-12. Ladies sizes and half sizes 3-8. They may not be helpful for many people with shoe problems, but will slow down some shoe wreckers.

## — or for clothes to throw away?

FOR holidays, weekends or even a way of life, disposables are widening in scope. Nighties and male and female briefs have been available for ages; now the harassed mother is being catered for with cot sheets, bibs and nappy liners.

The cot sheets, 36" x 45", in pink, blue or white are 4s 6d a pair; bibs, with a colourful toy design, are 15 for 4s. The packs of nappy liners are 50 for 5s. Also available are nighties at 3s. 3d. each, women's briefs at 4s. 3d. for six and men's briefs at 10s. a dozen. Aprons, table cloths, skirts and dresses will be available soon.

I found that, with careful handling, paper briefs will stand up to several washes and are just the job to wear under tights and panti-girdle.

All these EasyLife Disposables are available from Dispo-wear Limited, 10 Stephen Buildings, Gresse Street, London, W.1.

S.K.

(Pictorial Court Press picture)

## "Don't pity us — just enjoy our show"

SPASTIC children at the Alexander Anderson Home, Wishaw, in Scotland have their own puppet theatre.

A performance of three fairy-tales was given at the home's open day by wheelchair-bound pupils on a specially-adapted

stage. The children have an arm rest at the back of the stage to allow easier handling of the strings.

Pupils who are unable to manipulate the puppets can sing or play records so that there is an opportunity for all to take part.

Miss Agnes Lith-glow, Secretary-Treasurer at the home, who writes the scripts for the plays, said, "We don't want people to listen out of pity—we want them to listen because they are enjoying it."

(Photo by courtesy of Hamilton Advertiser)



## More help and guidance for parents at Southampton

THE Spastics Society's Family Help Unit at Southampton went into operation in April. The Unit, which is above the Southampton and District Spastics Association's Day Centre, in Rose Road, brings help and relief to spastic children and their families throughout much of Southern England.

Up to nine spastics, aged from two to 16 can be accommodated at the Family Help Unit at one time. They will stay there for short term periods, to allow their parents to take a holiday or to give them a break from the 24 hour-a-day, seven-day-a-week job of looking after a handicapped child.

Spastic children will also stay at the Unit during periods of family crisis, such as when one of their parents is sick. Parents who are having difficulty in finding the best way of caring for their severely handicapped child, will be able to stay at the Unit with the child and receive guidance from the experienced staff there.

### Experience

Warden of both the Family Help Unit and the Day Centre is Mrs. Stephanie Melville, who has long experience of looking after handicapped children.

"We are very keen to encourage the parents of spastics to visit us and discuss any problems they may have," she said. "They are welcome to come here at any time."

"In fact a parent-staff Association has been formed among parents of children who attend the Day Centre. This meets

every two months and it gives parents a chance to meet the staff, and other parents of handicapped children, to discuss their various problems."

### Three Classes

About 25 children attend the Day Centre, and these are divided into three classes. Those aged between two-and-a-half and five-and-a-half are given nursery training. A qualified teacher gives lessons to those aged between five-and-a-half and 16. The third class is for those who are severely handicapped, often mentally as well as physically, and whose activities are correspondingly limited.

Both the Day Centre and the Family Help Unit are accommodated in a spacious new £85,000 building erected by the Southampton Spastics Association with the help of a £40,000 grant from The Spastics Society.

## S.O.S. won £250 from the "collarette" collection

REMEMBER those Jif lemon collarettes that everyone was collecting for charity around Pancake Day? The manufacturers offered prizes to the charities which collected the most, and as a result the Stars Organisation for Spastics has received £250.

The S.O.S. came second with just under 1,000 collarettes. Members are particularly grateful to the Local Groups who helped by collecting the little labels on behalf of the S.O.S.

The money has been donated to Miss Elise McCormack's fund raising campaign for the Stars Organisation for Spastics. Elise is an entrant in the National Charity Queen and Charity Princess Contest, and the S.O.S. is her nominated charity.

## Starry line-up for bingo session

THE Stars Organisation for Spastics is one of the charities which will benefit from the Maytime Fair being held in the Ballroom of Grosvenor House, Park Lane, London, on Wednesday, May 27th.

The Fair is organised by Ox-fam in association with six other charities.

Many exciting stands and novel special events are planned for the Fair, among them a Bingo session. Six S.O.S. members, Patrick Cargill, Leslie Crowther, Pier Picton, John Garrie, Bruce Wyndham, and George Moon, have volunteered to act as "callers".

The Fair will be held from 6 p.m. to midnight—a discotheque will be in operation from 8 p.m.—and tickets cost 10s. each, and 2s. 6d. for children who are accompanied by their parents.

A snooker game played in Milford Haven by Gary Owen, former world amateur champion, raised £50 for The Spastics Society and a further £25 for Pembrokeshire spastics.

## Volunteers help at new Centre

THE new Centre run by the Lowestoft and North-East Suffolk Spastics Society is now in operation. The programme includes family care, physiotherapy, social activities and fund-raising events.

The Centre is run with the aid of unpaid workers and many new volunteers have joined the Group over the past six months.

The Group also runs a mobile handicraft scheme which, apart from its therapeutic value, is a means of keeping in touch with local spastics.

## Friendships renewed at Dene Park

FIFTEEN former students of Dene Park, The Spastics Society's Further Education Centre, at Tonbridge, Kent, attended an enjoyable re-union weekend at the Centre recently. The re-union was such a success that it was decided to hold more in the future.

The young people renewed friendships, chatted with members of the staff, and enjoyed events ranging from a buffet at the "local" to a discotheque and a Treasure Hunt.

Before they left, the former students warmly thanked Mr. Steels and his staff for their co-operation and help over the weekend, and were full of praise for Miss Eileen Spink who organised the re-union.

## "Fantastic" campaign by school

STAFF and pupils of Wodensborough High School, Wednesbury, Staffordshire have collected over £1,100 in a massive two-week campaign to help the West Bromwich and District Spastics Society.

Fund raising events included a "Mr. Wodensborough" competition, a fair, treasure hunt, minstrel show and a 30-mile sponsored walk.

The money will help towards the cost of building a holiday bungalow on the North Wales coast for local spastics and their families.

Mrs. June Carroll, Secretary of the West Bromwich and District Spastics Society, said that never before had such a gigantic fund-raising drive been put on for the Group.

"It would have taken us more than 12 months to raise the money," she commented. "The school's effort was absolutely fantastic."

## Spastic boy swims for Police

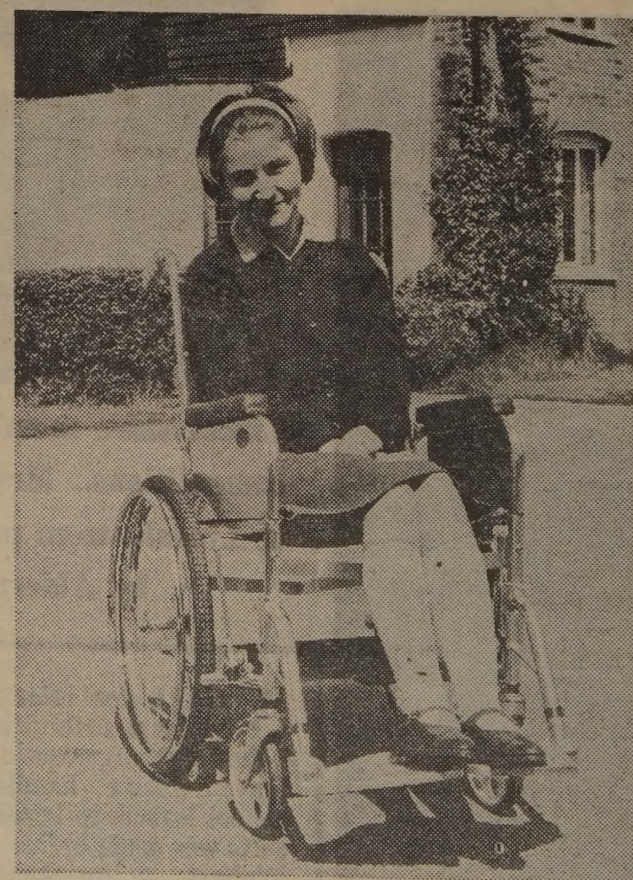
A SPASTIC boy in Hertfordshire has taken part in a sponsored swim in aid of a police charity.

The boy, Russell Cox, 11, son of P.C. Cox of Much Hadham, near Bishops Stortford, completed nine lengths.

He and his eight-year-old sister Gale raised £103 between them.

## LIGHT? LIGHTER? LIGHTTEST!

The NEWTON wheelchair is the lightest of them all



INSTANTLY DETACHABLE ARMRESTS AND DRIVING WHEELS. ALL WITH AUTOMATIC LOCKS. FOOTRESTS ARE

DETACHABLE, ADJUSTABLE. NO MAINTENANCE NYLON BEARINGS. 100% GUARANTEE.



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# Uphill struggle before Chris won the joy of independence



Chris Davies and Roger Jefcoate.

## THE HAZARDS OF OUR CITIES FOR HANDICAPPED

"OUR cities are fraught with difficulty for the young, the weak and the slow, the unwary and the aged and the infirm, as well as for the blind, the maimed and the paraplegic — monuments to the carelessness of our society as well as to the forgetfulness of our planners."

So said Mr. Hugh Morris, an architect who is himself disabled, when he spoke at a day study conference on Planning for Disabled People in the Urban Environment, which was sponsored by the Central Council for the Disabled and the Town Planning Institute.

The conference, which was under the chairmanship of Professor Colin Buchanan, Professor of Transport, University of London, was attended by 400 people including architects, planners, private developers, engineers, sociologists, and welfare officers, plus representatives of Government departments, local authorities, universities, hospitals and voluntary organisations.

Another speaker, Mr. Michael Humphrey, Senior Lecturer in Psychology, University of Lon-

don, spoke of the "welcome signs of increasing collaboration between architects and social scientists in planning for groups with special needs."

The task of the planners of tomorrow's towns and cities must include the setting of men free, as well as providing the security of homes and the pleasure of a good skyline.

### EXCLUDED

This country has in its population over a million people who are restricted by physical handicaps; people who are unable to negotiate steps or get on a bus, people who live their lives in a wheelchair and who therefore, because of the difficulties of access, may be excluded from being where other people are, excluded from theatres and 'pubs' and sometimes from a public 'loo'.

Too often the disabled are imprisoned by their physical environment and therefore not free to enjoy the facilities for work, recreation and entertainment enjoyed by the rest of the society.

Thoughtful and imaginative planning and design can set them free—enable them to be where other people are and to be as mobile as others.

For the first time in his life, last month, Chris Davies was able to operate his radio, switch on the light and turn off the electric fire. Chris, a severely handicapped athetoid, was able to do all these things from his wheelchair, just by sucking on a plastic tube.

In addition he could work a buzzer to summon his mother or father, ring an emergency bell, and even set a bell ringing in a neighbour's house three doors away. Soon he will be able to dial any number—he chooses on the telephone, and possibly answer the front door.

He can do all these things because a Possum Selector Unit Type One, more commonly known as an environmental controller, has been installed in his home. This equipment, which costs just under £500 to install, has been available under the National Health Service for the past three and a half years. Despite this Chris—who lives at Pine Tree Avenue, Nottor, Birkenhead—is only the second spastic to apply for a Unit. He is the first person from a Spastics Society school or centre to have an environmental controller installed under the N.H.S.

### "Amazing"

"I am convinced this is because people just do not know that this equipment is available, said Roger Jefcoate, of the P.O.S.M. Research Project, who installed the Unit. "It's amazing the number of doctors who haven't heard of Possum."

"Surely every doctor should learn about aids and appliances for the disabled during his training. Not only Possum, of course, but equipment of all kinds that can help the handicapped. If they don't learn about these things how can they hope to give the best advice to handicapped patients."

"Local authorities should also be more energetic seeking out people who could benefit from equipment such as environmental controllers. It is extremely noteworthy that no Possum equipment has been installed under the N.H.S. in Leeds, Sheffield or Birmingham, with their vast populations. Yet Bradford, with a population of only about a quarter of a million, has no fewer than five. Bradford local authorities are particularly active in helping people who could derive benefit from Possum."

### Help to mother

Chris, a former Thomas De Larue School pupil, who will begin to study politics and sociology at Oakwood this month, said: "This equipment will give me much more independence than I had before. Up till now I have had to call someone, every time I wanted the light or fire on. Now I can do these things for myself."

"It will also help my mother

considerably. She has been unable to go out of the house for any length of time in case something happened to me. Now she can go out for much longer periods without worrying, because if anything goes wrong I can raise the alarm."

"On one occasion my mother did go out, and I accidentally caught my eye with my hand while turning over the page of a book. It turned my eyelid inside out, and there was nothing I could do to put it right again. I had to stay like that for an hour, until my mother came home again."

### Fought red tape

"More people should be informed about these environmental controllers. After all there must be hundreds of people like me who could and should benefit from them."

Obtaining his Possum Unit was an uphill struggle for Chris and his parents. They had to fight red tape and officialdom every inch of the way, and even call in their M.P. It took a whole year from the first application to having the equipment installed.

At one stage a doctor sent to assess him by the Regional Hospital Board turned him down on the grounds that he would be unable to operate the Unit. Chris proved him wrong last month when he tried out the equipment for the first time, with amazing success.

## New guide will help chairbound visitors

A NEW guidebook to Sussex has been published, called "Easy Access Sightseeing." It is the first in a planned series of guides to counties of Britain, compiled with disabled people in mind.

The book lists most of the major resorts and beauty spots in Sussex, with notes on the accessibility to wheelchair or walking aid users of churches and other historic buildings. Useful dimensions of steps and doorways are given, including those of any available lavatories.

The book costs 7s. 6d. and can be obtained from Hurstwood Press, Catsfield, Battle, Sussex.

## £100 heave



Singer Millicent Martin pushes over a pile of pennies at the White Hart Hotel, Cuckfield, Sussex. The money amounted to a total of over £100 for spastics.

(Photo by courtesy of Brighton Evening Argus)

## READY FOR THE BIG WEEK

PETERBOROUGH & District Spastics Society held a meeting recently to enlist local support for Spastics Week, 1970 (July 5-11).

Speakers included Lady Dorothy Nicholls, wife of the M.P. for Peterborough, who has agreed to act as president of the local Week; Mr. Mike Reynolds, National Spastics Week Co-ordinator; and Mr. Ken Holding, the Society's Eastern Regional Officer.

Mr. Holding spoke of the new Family Help Unit at Bury St. Edmunds, which serves the area. The Peterborough Group has pledged £300 a year towards its upkeep. This is exclusive of the proceeds from Peterborough's Spastics Week, 1970, which will be donated to the Unit.

## Schoolgirls embarked on big task

TWO Dumfriesshire schoolgirls embarked on a cash-raising marathon when they set themselves the task of raising £300 for spastics.

They are Elizabeth Crozier, 16, and Kathie Graham, 15, of Canonbie. First of all, they raised £80 at a dance and sale of work, and then sold the left over goods at Carlisle market to bring their total to over £100.

Another £100 was raised at a second dance and a whist drive. Elizabeth achieved £40 in a sponsored swim, and a similar effort by Kathie should put them on the last lap.

The girls plan to use the money to provide a hydraulic lift for loading invalid chairs on to a special bus at Scalesceugh Spastics Home, Carlisle.

## "Don't despair" says mother

WE despaired when our 20-month-old was found to be a spastic. But his own happiness, courage and perseverance shamed us out of impatience and frustration. At 4½ he completed his first sentence. When he managed his first steps on crutches, the whole neighbourhood rejoiced. Now he is having a trial at a por-

mal school and is doing well.

To any other parent in the same situation I'd say: Don't despair. All our sadnesses have been outweighed by the joy and gratitude our son has brought.

Mrs. J. McLaughlin, Liverpool.

Letter published in "Woman's Own," 11th April, 1970.



"The Cassettes" (right) provided musical entertainment at the Bedford 62 Club's annual party recently. In the centre of the picture is Larry York, Club Chairman, who works as a lift operator at a local store.

(Bedford County Press picture)

## Trading stamps take boys to Lourdes

SPASTIC schoolboys Joseph Mullen of Sheepridge, Yorkshire, and 12-year-old twins, John and Nigel Hayes, of Syston, Leicestershire, were among a party of 450 handicapped children who recently spent a week at Lourdes.

The three holidays, arranged by the Handicapped Children's Pilgrimage Trust, were financed with books of trading stamps collected by pupils of Roman Catholic schools.

## Employment Moves and News

RECENT employment moves and news are as follows (training centres in brackets): SARAH BAVIN from High Halstow, Rochester (Dene Park) is working in a local supermarket.

ANDREW FAULKNER from Northampton (Sherrards) is employed locally as a capstan operator by an aircraft component manufacturing concern.

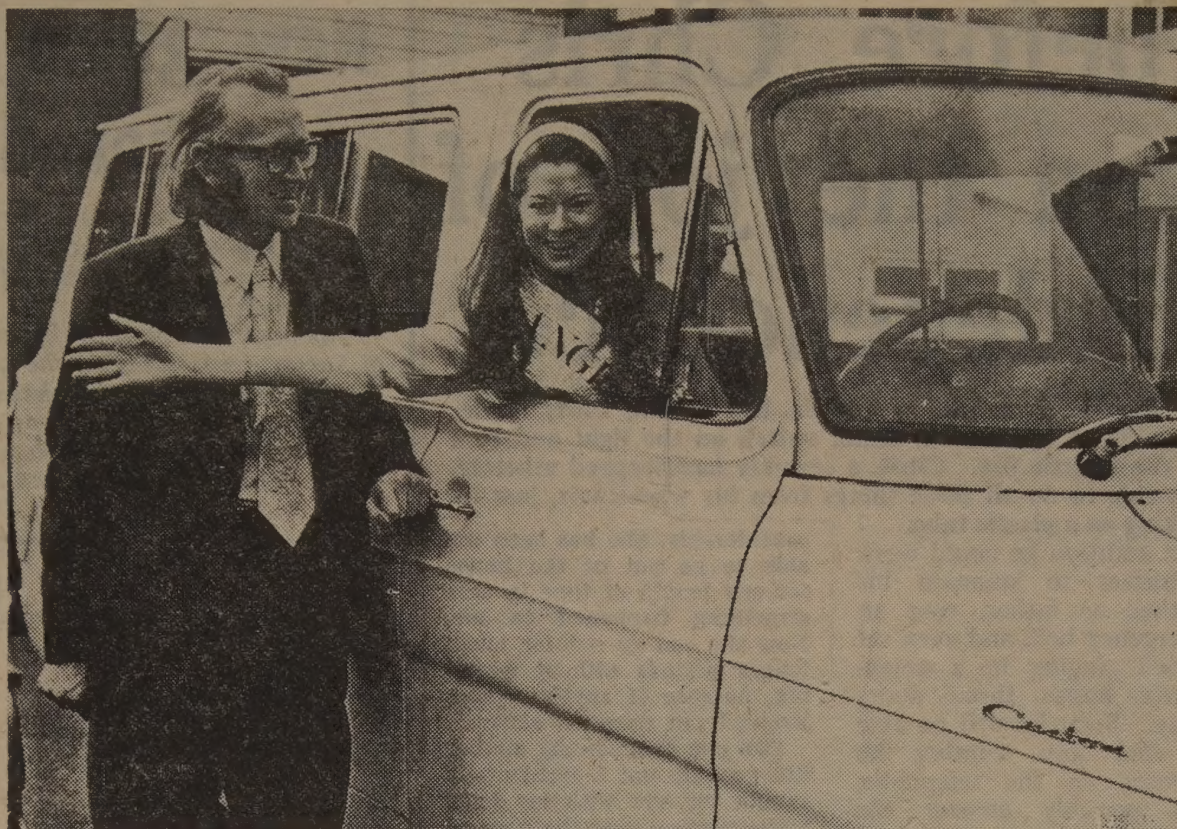
CHRISTOPHER LANGTON from Colchester (Sherrards) is working locally as an assembly operator.

MARTIN THOMPSON from Oswaldtwistle (Sherrards) has a new job as a capstan operator in Accrington.

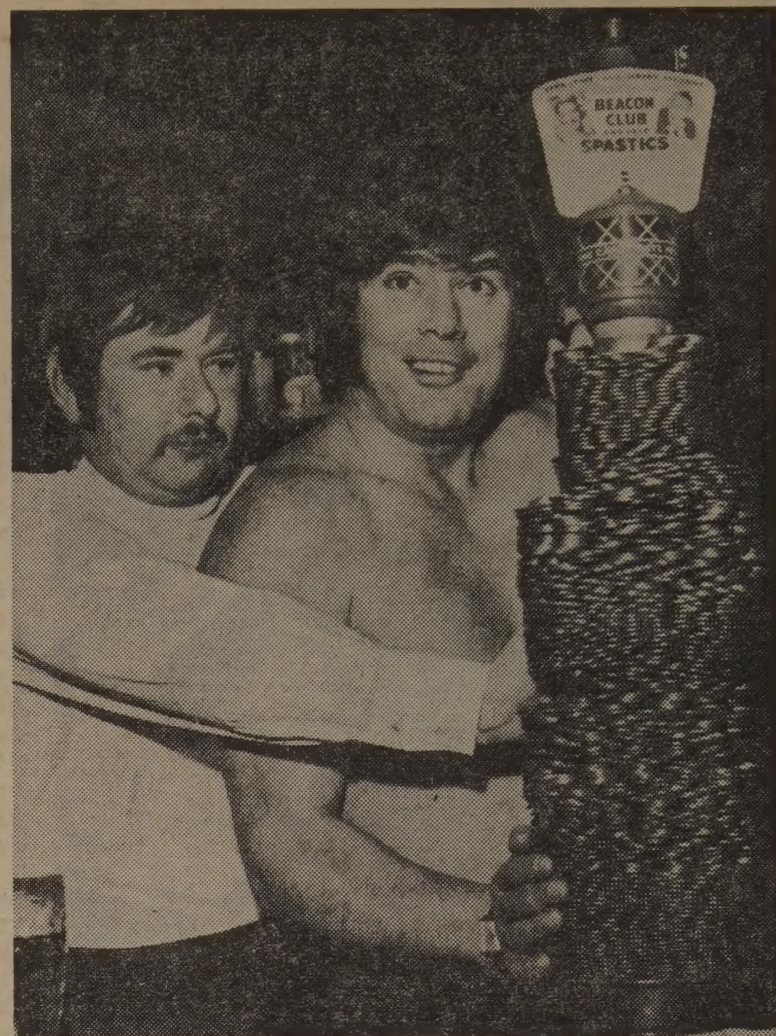
A weekend in Amsterdam and a deep-freeze cabinet were among the prizes won in a raffle held by the South Humberside Spastics Society. The event raised £150 for Group funds.



# P I C T U R E P A R A D E



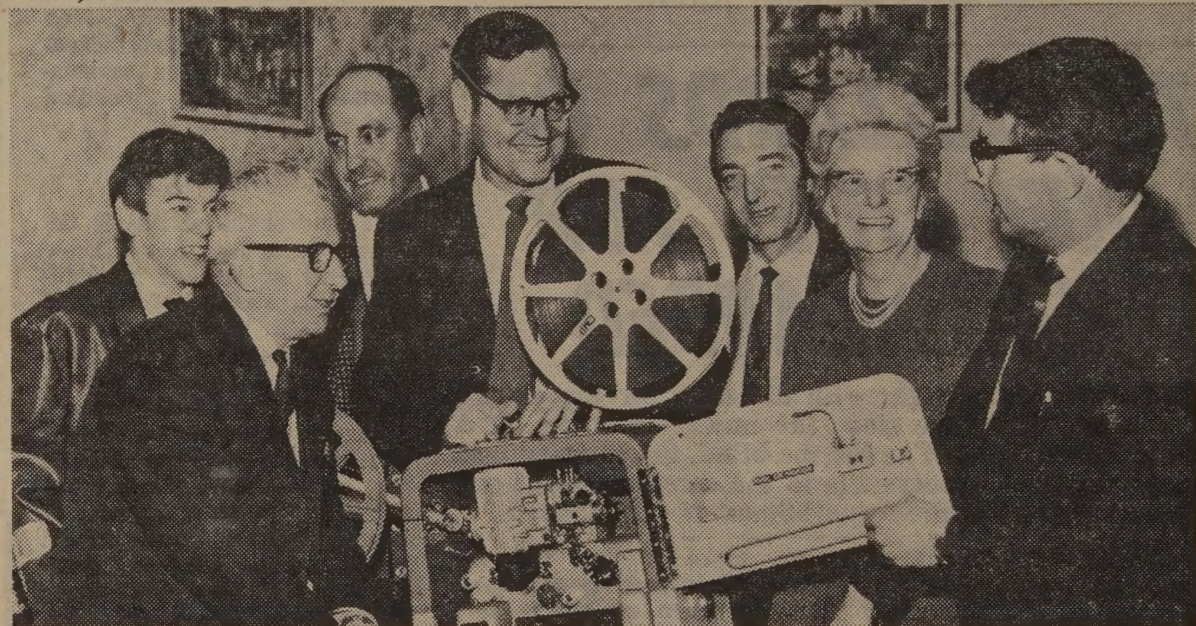
Oakwood Further Education Centre, Kelvedon, Essex, has a new minibus bought with money raised by the Friends of Oakwood, pupils of Gilbert School, Colchester, and jazz musician Humphrey Lyttelton, who donated the proceeds of two concerts. Above: Mr. Lyttelton stands by the new mini-bus, with Miss Anglia (Jennifer Cresswell) in the driver's seat.



Shirt off for a big heave as singer-comedian Dave Allenby pushes over a pile of pennies at the Vine Inn, New Forest motel. Dave, who was appearing in cabaret at the motel, is helped in the big push by John Bennett (left), "Show Bizz" of the "Southern Evening Echo," Southampton. The pennies in the pile cashed up to £30 13s 3d for the local Group.



The schoolboy table tennis champions of Staffordshire hand over cheques totalling £234.12s. to Mrs. Elsie Ashley of the North Staffordshire Spastics Association. As reported in last month's "Spastics News" the boys broke the world record with a marathon game lasting 100 hours. (Photo courtesy of Evening Sentinel, Staffordshire)



Mr. Ken Holding, the Society's Eastern Regional Officer, recently showed the film "Three for Society" to members of Peterborough and District Spastics Society. Photographed around the projector are (left to right) Mr. David Stapleton, Mr. Joe Pearson (Group Chairman), Mr. M. Stapleton, Mr. Hold-

ing, Mr. L. Elliott, Mrs. L. Doonan (Treasurer) and Mr. A. Joinson (local Spastics Week Co-ordinator for 1970) whose daughter attends the Society's Wilfred Pickles School.

"Three for Society" is a heartwarming film about the lives, hopes and ambitions of three spastics, and is one

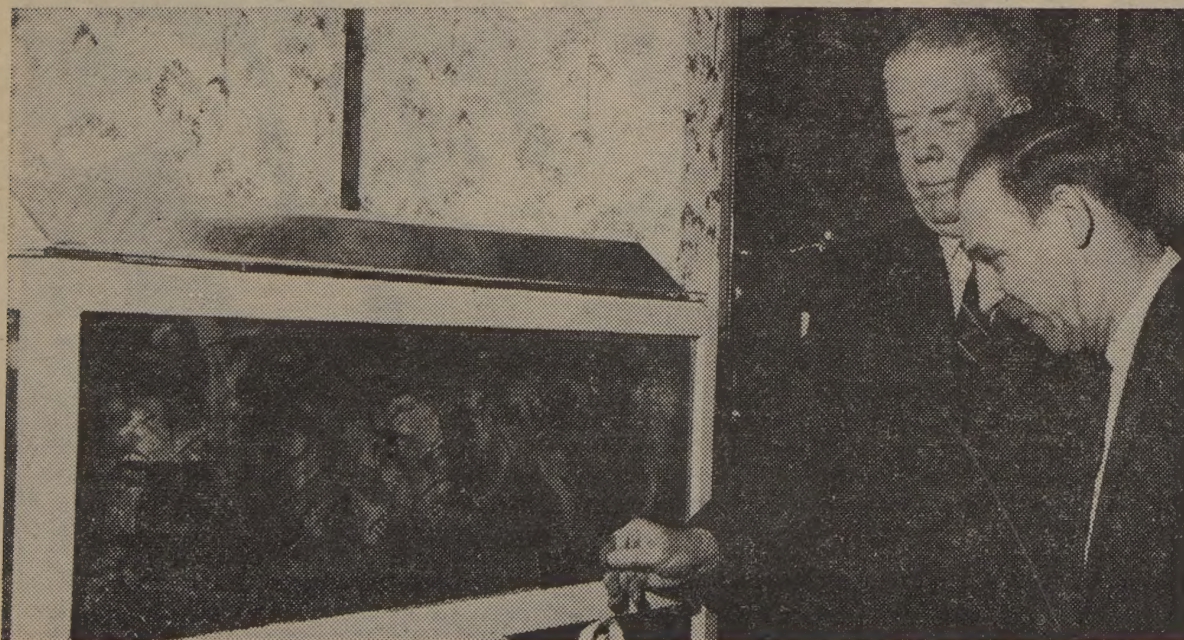
of the many excellent films available for showing by Local Groups or other interested organisations. Details from the Film Secretary, The Spastics Society, 12 Park Crescent, London, W.1.

(Photo by courtesy of Peterborough Evening Telegraph)



Three young members of Peterborough and District Spastics Society enjoy one of their swimming sessions at a local secondary school. The school's headmaster has agreed to let local spastics use the pool on one evening a week.

(Photo by courtesy of Peterborough Standard)



A tropical fish tank has been presented to the Bedford Spastics Home, Buxton, Derbyshire, by the Buxton and District Aquarist Society. Dr. Robert Stewart, President of the Society, is photographed with Mr. Gerald Turner (right) who received the tank on behalf of the residents' committee. (Photo by courtesy of Buxton Advertiser and Herald)



Helen Wigger, 17, of the Astor Hall home for the disabled in Plymouth, is a keen Radio One fan and it was an exciting moment for her when she met disc jockey

Tony Blackburn and pianist Russ Conway at a local Press and TV Ball. Here Tony Blackburn autographs a picture of himself for Helen

who is accompanied by hostesses Irene Blackaller and Kathy Meyer.

(Photo by courtesy of the Independent, Plymouth)



How to make a million people feel somebody "up there" cares

A MINISTER for the Handicapped—who could act as a kind of Ombudsman—is urged in a joint report by The Spastics Society and the National Society for Autistic Children.

The report, which was widely publicised, was commenting on the new Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons' Bill. It stated that the appointment of a Minister was not only essential for the Bill to be successful, but that the handicapped had been so neglected for so long that a Minister was badly needed to co-ordinate services and research.

The report points out that such a Minister would be responsible for the welfare of 1-in-50 of Britain's population—and that the appointment would provide a focal point for their problems. But it adds:

"Perhaps the greatest point to be made, is that the appointment of a Minister for the Handicapped would make over a million suffering people feel that somebody 'up there' cared and was responsible for their welfare."

The report reveals that, at the moment, no fewer than nine different Government departments are concerned with the welfare of the handicapped, and that there are probably somewhere between 1,200,000 and 1,500,000 handicapped people in Britain today.

The report makes a special plea for the mentally handicapped—an area in which The Spastics Society and the National Society for Autistic Children are very much concerned. It says that a Minister might be able to increase the amount of finance available to provide more help, especially for the mentally subnormal.

"The two Societies feel that some £200 million needs to be spent over the next four years to provide facilities for the mentally subnormal: in fact, the real budget is likely to be far less than this spread over the next 10 years."

Commenting on the report: Mr. James Loring, Director of The Spastics Society, said:

"Surely the handicapped people of Britain deserve a Minister to watch their interests at Government level, and to be their spokesman in the House of Commons? We consider this appointment an urgent necessity."

"We are not suggesting that a new Ministry should be set up. The Minister for the Handicapped's job would be to co-ordinate forward planning, and inspire other Ministers to give greater concern for the needs of the physically and mentally handicapped. If actors, ballet dancers, writers, painters and sportsmen can have their Ministers campaigning for them, then surely the handicapped—the one section of the population most in need of help—deserve a Government watchdog too?"

Dr. Lorna Wing, of the National Society for Autistic Children said:

"If such a Minister is to be any use his stature within the Government must be high. A Minister could make a special study of the problems of the handicapped and press for measures to help achieve better care and better services. He could consider complaints as a kind of Ombudsman."

# Silver jubilee for a very special company

All the answers

FOR a quarter of a century a British company has been boasting a steady increase in production, in sales and in its labour force and yet has been recording, without apology, a financial deficit every year.

This unique organisation is Remploy and the explanation is that, although it can be described as big business, it contradicts the normal rules of commerce. Where, normally, an industrial concern employs people as the means of production and ultimately sales, Remploy has established production units and organised sales as the means of its end—which is the employment of a greater number of disabled people.

This year, Remploy is celebrating its Silver Jubilee with an impressive record of achievement to its credit. There are now 86 Remploy factories strategically sited throughout the country, the company's sales now exceed £9 million a year and, most important of all, Remploy keeps some 7,500 severely disabled men and women in useful employment.

Set up in 1945 under the Disabled Persons (Employment) Act of 1944, Remploy was given a pioneering task without any precise precedent to follow. The aim was to establish factories wherever the largest numbers of unemployed disabled people lived and to provide them with the opportunity to return to a near-normal working life in which they could again earn their own living. The company's factories are not rehabilitation centres; they are productive units as much like ordinary factories as it is possible to make them and operating in competition with industry.

## The People

The company's disabled employees are in all cases engaged through Department of Employment and Productivity employment exchanges. To be eligible for employment in a Remploy factory, a disabled person must be registered with the Department and be considered to be employable only under special conditions.

The company does employ a number of fit people to perform the more arduous or specialised tasks, but the proportion of these employed on production is less than 10 per cent of the total productive force. While care is taken not to impose any undue strain on the disabled employees, they are expected to work a five-day week of 40 hours and there is no suggestion of "feather-bedding".

Employees are given individual attention, especially during the training period, to ensure that they are fitted into the most suitable work available at the factory. The handicaps of disability are minimised by the adaptation of

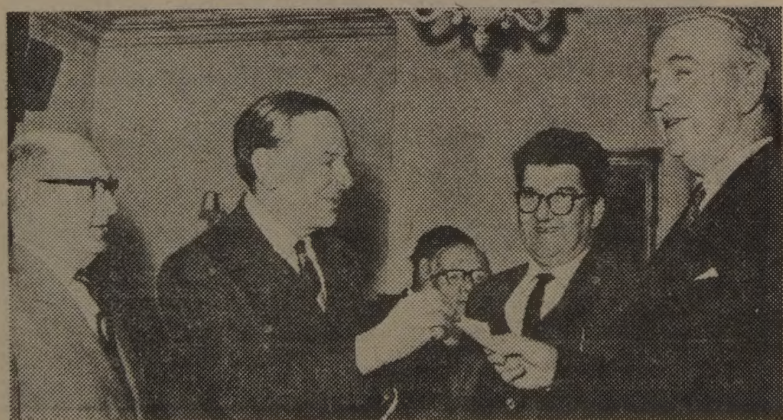
machinery, where appropriate, and the breaking down of complex jobs into simple, more easily manageable operations.

Remploy runs at a financial loss and will probably continue to do so. It is not hard to see why. Social needs determine the location and size of the factories, and also the type of work undertaken. Most of the employees are capable of a proportion only of the production of able-bodied workers. As a result, the overheads and wages bills are disproportionately high in relation to output.

The difference between income from sales and expenditure amounts at present to more than £4 million a year. This is met by the Treasury. An allowance is also made to the company each year for capital expenditure.

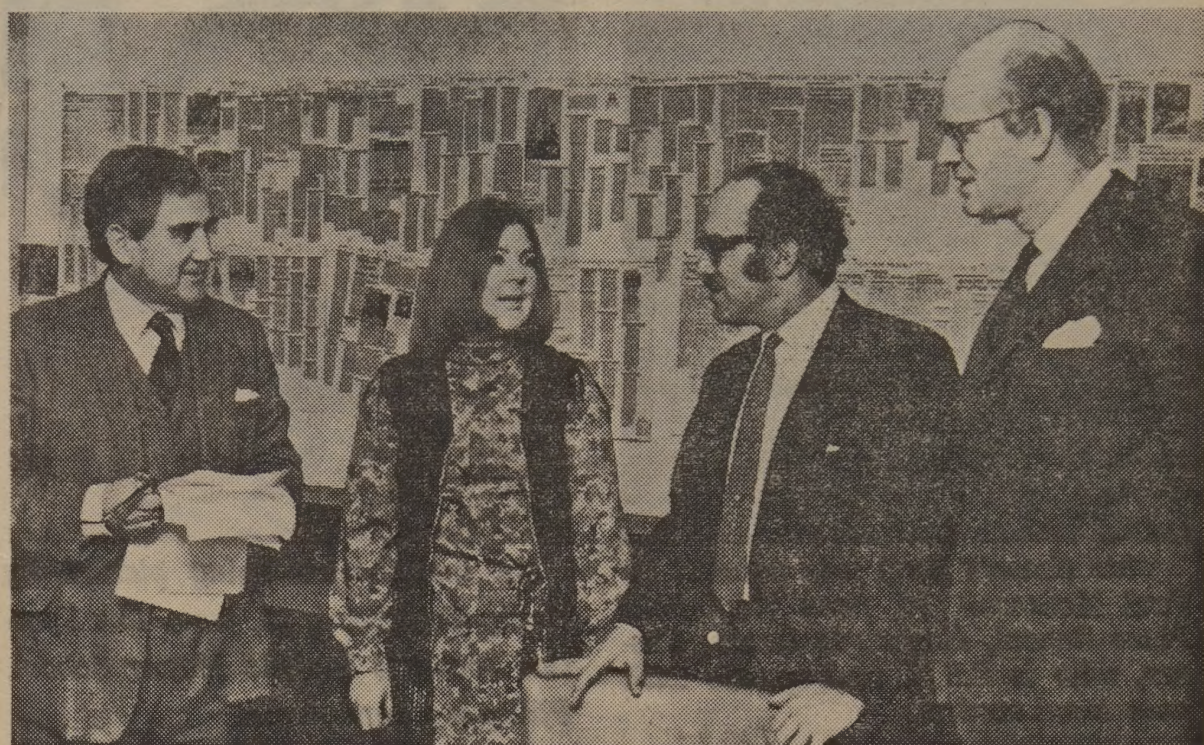
The net cost to the taxpayer, however, is very much less if one makes allowance for the employees' contributions for National Insurance and income tax, and the expenditure in unemployment benefit or social security payments which would be necessary if they were not employed. The wages they earn are agreed by negotiation between the company and the trades unions concerned.

*The people who work for Remploy, whether disabled or fit, can be proud of the achievements in the first 25 years of its existence. But there is no complacency. It is recognised that there are still large numbers of unemployed disabled people for whom work cannot yet be provided.*



Mr. G. L. Hullard (right), treasurer of the Lincolnshire Spastics Centre's central committee, receives an £800 cheque from Major H. D. Marshall. The money was raised at last year's Caenby Corner Steam Spectacle. Also in the picture are Mr. G. Fletcher, Chairman of the Steam Spectacle, and Mr. George Taylor, Secretary.

(Photo by courtesy of Lincolnshire Echo).



The Spastics Society's Staff Social Club at Headquarters held a successful "Any Questions" session recently. Members of the panel were (left to right): Mr. A. M. Frank, the Society's Assistant Director, Regions; Miss Shirley Lewis of The Guardian; Mr. David Kerr, Labour M.P. for Wandsworth Central; and Mr. Marcus Worsley, Conservative M.P. for Chelsea.

## Playing the sponsored chess game

A WORLD chess marathon record has been broken by two 16-year-old students at the Army Apprentices College, Arborfield, near Reading, Berkshire. The boys, Paul Mackie and Patrick Knowles, played a non-stop game of chess lasting 52½ hours.

They hope to raise £400 from sponsors to buy a special mouth-operated typewriter for a spastic boy at the Haphaistos School, Farley Hill, Berkshire.

H.R.H. The Duchess of Kent, Patron of The Spastics Society, recently made an official visit to the city of York. Included in her itinerary was the Lidgert Grove Junior Training Centre which has a special spastics unit.

THE White Lodge Spastics Centre, Chertsey, Surrey, has received £400 as the result of a football match between Addlestone F.C. and a Showbiz Eleven.

The game, which ended in a

## BITS AND PIECES by The Collector

draw, was watched by 1,600 people.

The money will be used to help pay for a new extension at the White Lodge Spastics Centre.

BARROW, Lancs., Soroptomists' Club has donated £300 to the Barrow and District Spastics and Handicapped Children's Society for kitchen equipment at the Group's new Day Care Centre.

A "DOOR-KNOCK" organised by the Letchworth Friends of Spastics in Hertfordshire, has raised £240 17s. 7d. Senior pupils of four local schools took part in the collection.

TUNBRIDGE Wells and Tonbridge Spastics Society has been offered a large pre-fabricated building for use as a Centre.

The offer has had to be refused, however, owing to difficulties in finding a suitable site.

A hoped-for lease on a piece of land owned by Kent Education Committee has not been forthcoming.

PARENTS of physically handicapped children will, no doubt, be interested to know that The Spastics Society runs an Information Service on Aids and Appliances at their Family Services and Assessment Centre, 16 Fitzroy Square, London, W.1. (Tel: 01-387 9571). Altogether sixty different items of special equipment are on show in the Exhibition Room there.

Anyone wishing to see the display is always welcome to call in at the Centre any Friday afternoon. Where this time is inconvenient, however, a special appointment can be made

by either telephoning or writing to the Centre.

AN old-time and popular sequence dance held at Mossley, Oldham, Lancashire, raised £112 for spastics.

Also in Oldham, the annual spring fair organised by the Spastics Aid Ladies Committee, raised over £250.

Many local firms and individuals contributed gifts for the fair.

FALMOUTH '62 Club has lost one of its founder members in the death of Mrs. E. Symons. Mrs. Symons was a great worker for the club and will be sadly missed.

## — canasta too



THROUGH the initiative of four members of the Castle Club, the Hampshire County Council Social Club, the Winchester and District Spastics Society has benefited to the tune of £150.

The idea of a 48-hour non-stop canasta marathon originated from David Parson (Surveyor's Department) and was enthusiastically taken up by three other club members—Ann Mitchell (Treasurer's), Bob West (Prosecuting Solicitors) and Barry Tramaseor (Work Study).

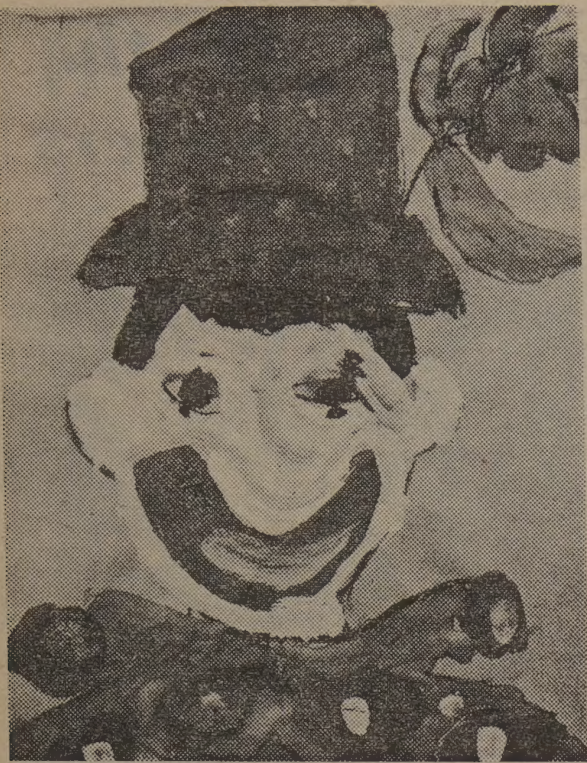
The sponsorship forms listed a number of charities and provision was made for each sponsor, in addition to pledging an amount for each hour of play, to vote either for one of those listed or an alternative charity, the total proceeds to be given to the one securing the most votes. The Winchester Spastics Society secured the largest number of votes.

With County Council colleagues taking it in turns to act as adjudicators, Ann and Barry played for 27½ hours. David and Bob played from 8 p.m. on Friday to 8 p.m. on Sunday. They were fortified by the moral support of numerous club members and, equally important, with gallons of strong coffee and breakfasts and refreshments prepared through the good offices of the Fire Service.

A cheque for the proceeds was handed to Mr. E. G. Williams, Chairman of the Society, by Mr. W. Kirkham, the Chairman of the Castle Club, at a dance.

Picture shows Ann Mitchell, David Parson, Barry Tramaseor and Bob West ready to start their Canasta marathon in aid of spastics.





This clown's head was painted by Paul McGowan, 10, from Staplefield Place School, Haywards Heath, Sussex, who is E.S.N. and spastic with poor hand control.



An imaginative flying picture by Philip Coulthard, 10, from The Spastics Society's Ingfield Manor School. Philip is a hemiplegic.



A fabric montage, "The Wedding", by Philip Gayle, 13, of Grove Park School, N.W. London. Philip has cerebral palsy and a mental handicap.



This head by Frank Yorkston, 16, of the Society's Thomas Delarue School, won the Judges' Prize for the best drawing. Frank has a severe hand tremor.

## Oxford Seminar probes moral education

MORAL Education and Social Adaptation of the Handicapped Child was the wide-ranging subject of a Seminar at University College, Oxford, during April. The Seminar was sponsored by The Farmington Trust and The Spastics Society, and was attended by representatives of the various disciplines concerned in the field.

Speakers at the Seminar were Mr. John Wilson, Director of the Farmington Trust, Mr. James Loring, Director of The Spastics Society, Dr. Barry Sugarman, Mr. Norman Williams, Miss Maeve Denby, Dr. Kevin Connolly, Mr. Asher Cashdan, Professor Russell Davis, Professor Brian Foss, Mr. Derek Wright, Dr. Russell Barton, Mr. Robert Mahood, Dr. Martin Bax, Dr. Donald Gough, Mrs. Joyce Knowles, Miss Elsie Sellar, Mr. Peter McPhail, Mr. Graham Burn, Mr. Hans Hoxter, and Dr. William Belson.

Chairmen of Seminar sessions were Mr. P. Mayhew, Mr. Leslie Gardner, Mr. E. Davies,

Rev. W. Kay, Rev. W. Jones, Rev. A. Langdon, Mr. R. Pedder, Miss M. Morgan.

## Sincere thanks to Salisbury

BECAUSE it realises what "a tremendous task" is undertaken by The Spastics Society and how difficult it is becoming for the Society to raise funds, the Salisbury and District Spastics Association has made a donation of £100. And the Association says that it will endeavour to send a minimum of £100 to the Society every year.

In a letter to Mrs. Joyce

Smith, Chairman of the Association, Mr. W. A. Burn, Chairman of The Spastics Society, says: "This is a most generous gesture.

"From personal experience I realise how much hard work on the part of all concerned is involved in local fund raising, and I know that the Executive Council will wish me to convey their most sincere thanks to your Committee."

## Spastic children score in London art show

THE Invalid Children's Aid Association held its fourth "Art of the Invalid Child" Exhibition recently at the Royal Exchange in London.

The exhibition, which was opened by Baroness Masham of Ilton, showed 380 paintings by children with mental, physical or emotional handicaps from 62 special schools in London and the Home Counties. The entries covered a wide range of subjects and each represented a triumph over difficulties.

Spastic artists were well to the fore and pupils from three of the Society's schools took part. The Thomas Delarue School won the Judges' Prize for the best drawing, a First Prize in the over-12 Montage section, a Highly Commended, and two Special prizes. A Special Prize also went to Meldreth Training School. Ingfield Manor gained a Second and a Special Prize.

Frank Yorkston, 16, of Delarue, who won the Judges' Prize with a drawing of a head in profile, has a severe hand tremor. However, in this work

he somehow managed to turn this to advantage and the jagged outlines gave the drawing a striking vitality.

The other first prizewinner from Delarue was Christopher Barker, 15, with a clever newspaper montage of a head. Judith Underwood from the same school had two watercolours on show, one of which was Highly Commended.

There was an attractive foil montage, depicting a cockatoo, by a group of children from Meldreth, and Philip Coulthard of Ingfield Manor had entered a lively impression of birds in flight.

A water colour painted by a 14-year-old spastic girl from Martindale School at Hounslow was bought by Mr. John Ward, one of the panel of judges.

Other outstanding works in the show included several by spastic children from E.S.N. schools.

ANNE PLUMMER

## Adventure playground brings new freedom

BRITAIN'S first adventure playground for the handicapped is already a great success, and is giving exciting opportunities to youngsters — many of them spastics — to find new independence and courage.

The idea is for the children to have fun, but as they climb, paddle, swing, dig, splash, build and bounce, they learn to accept, and conquer, challenges. The playground is designed and equipped to provide what its name states — adventure — and the organisers feel that this experience is vitally important for the handicapped child.

The playground recently opened in Old Church Street, Chelsea, and Lady Allen of Hurtwood, the inspiration behind the scheme, told "Spastics News" that it was probably the first of its kind in the world.

Most of the children attending are in the 5-15 age group, and they come to the playground for two-three hour sessions from their special schools. But individuals are welcomed too.

Once at the playground the children have a wealth of choice for exciting activities. A "river" has been made to run through the garden, with a fountain, a ford, stepping stones and a bridge. There is a tower, a tree house, gardens and sand to dig, swings, trapezes, climbing ropes, a trampoline, and — a great favourite — an overhead track, rather like a ski-lift, which carries children aloft around the playground. In addition there are playrooms equipped for both quiet and active play — from cooking to carpentry.

With all the opportunity for climbing that the playground provides, one of the essentials is thick sheets of rubber foam to form a safe, comfortable "falling floor" beneath equipment. "We need big areas of this foam rubber, the larger the better," says Lady Allen.

"Spastics News" would be delighted to pass on offers from generous donors, or foam rubber manufacturers, who feel they would like to add to the success of this very worthwhile enterprise by providing this essential.

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## Joy, Julie and Kevin — charity workers



Joy Thompson, eight, Julie Turner, six and Kevin Thompson, 12, who with three friends run a stall — made of cardboard boxes — outside their homes in Ellerton Road, Firth Park, Sheffield. They sell unwanted books and toys at a penny and tuppence a time in aid of spastics, and have already raised over a guinea. (Photo by courtesy of the Star, Sheffield).

## A VERY SWEET IDEA

THE Spastics Society received its sweetest ever gift when it took delivery of 3,000 lollipops at the Park

Crescent, London, headquarters for distribution to handicapped children in Society training schools and centres.



The lollipops were donated by Harry Vincent Ltd., manufacturers of Bluebird Confectionery, to celebrate the opening of new plant at their factory at Hunnington, Halesowen, Worcestershire. They are part of a half-day's two ton production being given to charities and local authorities for distribution to children in special schools, homes and institutions throughout the country.

The sweets were accepted enthusiastically on behalf of The Spastics Society by young spastic children from the Hornsey Trust for Handicapped Children.

Said Mr. James Loring, Director of The Spastics Society: "We thought it would be a nice gesture to give handicapped children an opportunity to say their own special 'thank you' for such a thoughtful gift."

Director Mr. James Loring (centre) receives the lollipops, watched by (left) Mr. Derek Lancaster-Gaye, the Society's Assistant Director, Services. Meanwhile, the children concentrate on sampling the gifts!